

## CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. A system for dynamically relating unstructured requests for information to at least one relevant answer, comprising:

a user interface, for receiving requests for information;

an answer table containing a plurality of answers to possible requests for information, each said plurality of answers including at least one character grouping;

a symbol table containing a plurality of unique symbols, each said plurality of unique symbols corresponding to one of said at least one character grouping of one answer in said answer table;

a neuron table including a plurality of weightable links , each said weightable link corresponding to a weightable link between one of said plurality of unique symbols in said symbol table and one or more of said answers in said answer table;

a search engine, responsive to said user interface and to a received request for information, for parsing said received request into one or more query stimuli, for searching said symbol table for one or more unique symbols matching at least one of said one or more query stimuli, responsive to one or more matching unique answer symbols, for searching said neuron table to determine an answer responsiveness weight based upon individual answer symbol weightable links obtained from said

neuron table for each of said one or more answers in said answer table having a weightable link between one of said plurality of unique symbols in said symbol table, and for presenting to said user one or more possible answers to said requested information based upon said determined answer responsiveness weight.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said user interface receives answer feedback; and

further including a learning engine, responsive to said answer feedback, for increasing or decreasing said weightable link weight between unique symbols and said one or more answers.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein said learning engine strengthens one or more weightable links that match unique symbols to one specific answer.

4. The system of claim 2 wherein said learning engines weakens said weightable links.

5. The system of claim 2 wherein said learning engine weakens weightable links that match unique symbols to one or more non-selected answers.

6. A system for dynamically relating unstructured requests for information to at least one relevant answer, comprising:

a user interface, for receiving requests for information and for receiving answer feedback information;

an answer table containing a plurality of answers to possible requests for information, each said plurality of answers including at least one character grouping;

a symbol table containing a plurality of unique symbols, each said plurality of unique symbols corresponding to one of said at least one character grouping of one answer in said answer table;

a neuron table including a plurality of weightable links , each said weightable link corresponding to a weightable link between one of said plurality of unique symbols in said symbol table and one or more of said answers in said answer table;

a search engine, responsive to said user interface and to a received request for information, for parsing said received request into one or more query stimuli, for searching said symbol table for one or more unique symbols matching at least one of said one or more query stimuli, responsive to one or more matching unique answer symbols, for searching said neuron table to determine an answer responsiveness weight based upon individual answer symbol weightable links obtained from said neuron table for each of said one or more answers in said

answer table having a weightable link between one of said plurality of unique symbols in said symbol table, and for presenting to said user one or more possible answers to said requested information based upon said determined answer responsiveness weight; and

a learning engine, response to said answer feedback information, for increasing or decreasing a weight of said weightable link in said neuron table between a unique symbol and at least one specific answer.

7. A method for dynamically relating unstructured requests for information to at least one relevant answer, comprising the acts of:

providing a user interface, for receiving requests for information;

providing an answer table containing a plurality of answers to possible requests for information, each said plurality of answers including at least one character grouping;

providing a symbol table containing a plurality of unique symbols, each said plurality of unique symbols corresponding to one of said at least one character grouping of one answer in said answer table;

providing a neuron table including a plurality of weightable links, each said weightable link corresponding to a weightable link between one of said plurality of unique symbols in said symbol table and one or more of said answers in said answer table; and

providing a search engine, responsive to said user interface and to a received request for information, for parsing said received request into one or more query stimuli, for searching said symbol table for one or more unique symbols matching at least one of said one or more query stimuli, responsive to one or more matching unique answer symbols, for searching said neuron table to determine an answer

responsiveness weight based upon individual answer symbol weightable links obtained from said neuron table for each of said one or more answers in said answer table having a weightable link between one of said plurality of unique symbols in said symbol table, and for presenting to said user one or more possible answers to said requested information based upon said determined answer responsiveness weight.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said act of providing said user interface includes receiving answer feedback by said user interface; and

further including the act of providing a learning engine, response to said answer feedback information, for increasing or decreasing a weight of said weightable link in said neuron table between a unique symbol and at least one specific answer.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said learning engine strengthens one or more weightable links that match unique symbols to a selected answer.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein said learning engines weakens weightable links.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein said learning engine weakens weightable links that match unique symbols to one or more non-selected answers.

12. The method of claim 8 further including the act of learning new knowledge, said act of learning new knowledge comprising the acts of:

receiving new answer information, said new answer information containing at least one character grouping;

adding said new answer information to said answer table;

parsing said at least one character grouping of said new answer information into at least one unique symbol;

adding said unique symbol to said symbol table if said unique symbol is not already in said symbol table and generating a new weightable link between said unique symbol and said new answer information; and

generating a new weightable link between a previously existing unique symbol and said new answer information if said unique symbol is already in said symbol table.

13. A method for adding new answer information and for dynamically relating unstructured requests for information to at least one relevant answer to an answer retrieval system, said method comprising the acts of:

providing a user interface, for receiving new answer information and requests for information;

providing an answer table containing a plurality of answers to possible requests for information, each said plurality of answers including at least one character grouping;

providing a symbol table containing a plurality of unique symbols, each said plurality of unique symbols corresponding to one of said at least one character grouping of one answer in said answer table;

providing a neuron table including a plurality of weightable links, each said weightable link corresponding to a weightable link between one of said plurality of unique symbols in said symbol table and one or more of said answers in said answer table;

receiving new answer information, said new answer information containing at least one character grouping;

adding said new answer information to said answer table;

parsing said at least one character grouping of said new answer information into at least one unique symbol;



adding said unique symbol to said symbol table if said unique symbol is not already in said symbol table and generating a new weightable link between said unique symbol and said new answer information; '

generating a new weightable link between a previously existing unique symbol and said new answer information if said unique symbol is already in said symbol table; and

providing a search engine, responsive to said user interface and to a received request for information, for parsing said received request into one or more query stimuli, for searching said symbol table for one or more unique symbols matching at least one of said one or more query stimuli, responsive to one or more matching unique answer symbols, for searching said neuron table to determine an answer responsiveness weight based upon individual answer symbol weightable links obtained from said neuron table for each of said one or more answers in said answer table having a weightable link between one of said plurality of unique symbols in said symbol table, and for presenting to said user one or more possible answers to said requested information based upon said determined answer responsiveness weight